

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1 and 11-28, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for controlling transfer of data between a service provider and a user in a communication system where the service provider possesses a privacy policy, the method comprising:~~

~~introducingreceiving to~~ at a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system;

receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy;

checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user; and

deciding whether the data can be released;

wherein the privacy policy and the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined set list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using the user to define the usage policy for the constraints related to the data.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing the broker with a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the providing comprises providing the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar information elements.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the providing comprises providing at least one of the privacy policies and at least one of the usage policies which specify a strictness level describing the constraints related to the data.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
using the user to choose the usage policies for the constraints related to the data.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
releasing user data when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider matches with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
indicating, by the broker, the strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user to the service provider when the at least one of the privacy policies of

the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

allowing the user to reduce a usage policy requirement when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

attaching an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~data transfer system~~, comprising:

a service provider possessing a privacy policy; and

a broker hosting a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, configured to check a request from the service provider against the usage policy of the user and to decide whether data associated with the user can be released in response to the request;

wherein the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~data transfer system~~, comprising:

introducing means for introducing to a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user;

receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider to the broker;

checking means for checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user; and

deciding means for deciding whether the data can be released;

wherein the usage policy specifies a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A device, configured to~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a request for data associated with a user from a service provider; and

a processor configured to check the request against a usage policy of the user; and to decide whether the data can be released,

wherein the usage policy specifies a strictness level, selected from a defined list of strictness levels, describing constraints related to the access of data.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~-apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

release user data when at least one privacy policy of the service provider matches with a specified strictness level of the usage policy of the user.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~-apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

indicate the strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user to the service provider when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~-apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

allow the user to reduce a usage policy requirement when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~-apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processor is further configured to:

attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A device~~An apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with a user from a service provider;
checking means for checking the request against a usage policy of the user; and
deciding means for deciding whether the data can be released;
wherein the usage policy specifies a strictness level, selected from a defined ordered list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium ~~having~~comprising computer-executable components ~~for controlling transfer of data between a service provider and a user in a communication system where the service provider possesses a privacy policy~~, the components ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~receiving~~receive a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system;

~~receiving~~receive a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy;

~~checking~~check the request against a usage policy of the user; and

~~deciding~~decide whether the data can be ~~released~~released,

wherein the privacy policy and the usage policy specify a strictness level, selected from a defined ~~set~~list of strictness levels, describing the constraints related to the access of data.

20. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

permit the user ~~defining to define~~ the usage policy for the constraints related to the data.

21. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~receiving~~ receive a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

22. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ receiving the predefined set comprises receiving the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar information elements.

23. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ receiving the predefined set comprises receiving at least one of the privacy policies and at least one of the usage policies which specify a strictness level describing the constraints related to the data.

24. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 21, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~permit~~ the user ~~choosing to choose~~ the usage policies for the constraints related to the data.

25. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 23, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~releasing~~release user data when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider matches with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

26. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 23, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~indicating~~indicate the strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user to the service provider when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

27. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 23, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~allowing~~allow the user to reduce a usage policy requirement when the at least one of the privacy policies of the service provider does not match with the specified strictness level of the at least one of the usage policies of the user.

28. (Currently Amended) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are ~~arranged for~~configured to:

~~attaching~~attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.